

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-67 were previously cancelled. Claims 68, 75, 98 and 114 are currently amended. Claims 69-74, 76-97, 99-113 and 115-132 are carried forward, all as follows.

Claims 1-67 (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) A printing blanket adapted to be secured on a transfer cylinder of a printing press comprising:

a dimensionally stable support plate having plate ends engageable with the transfer cylinder;

a coating on said support plate, said coating having a coating outer surface constituting an outer shell face of the transfer cylinder, said support plate and said coating constituting a printing blanket unit;

first and second spaced ends of said printing blanket in a circumferential direction of the transfer cylinder; and

a depression in said printing blanket intermediate said first and second spaced ends of said support plate, said depression being formed as a reduction~~redirection~~ of a thickness of said printing blanket.

69. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said support plate is metal.

70. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said coating is rubber.

71. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket of claim 70 wherein said rubber is multi-layered.

72. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said coating has a ground surface.

73. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said printing blanket has a blanket length in said circumferential direction of the transfer cylinder and said depression has a depression width in said circumferential direction, said depression width being 0.1% to 1% of said blanket length.

74. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said depression is dimensionally stable.

75. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a printing blanket for use with a transfer cylinder of a printing press including:

providing a dimensionally stable support plate having a thickness;

providing a coating on said support plate and having a coating outer face constituting an outer shell face of the transfer cylinder, said coating and said support plate constituting a printing blanket unit;

providing first and second support plate ends and spacing said first and second ends in a circumferential direction of the transfer cylinder; and

forming a depression in said printing blanket intermediate said first and second plate ends by reducing said thickness of said support plate ~~printing blanket~~.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 further including providing a die and using said die for stamping-in said depression.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 further including forming said depression prior to applying said printing blanket to the transfer cylinder.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 further including providing an upper die and a lower die and using said upper die and said lower die for forming said depression.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 further including forming said depression in said support plate prior to applying said printing blanket to the transfer cylinder.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 further including applying said coating to the support plate and deforming said support plate after applying said coating.

81. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said depression has a depth between 0.1 mm and 0.5 mm.

82. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket of claim 81 wherein said depth is between 0.2 mm and 0.3 mm.

83. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said depression has a sweep of 0 mm to 1 mm.

84. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket of claim 68 wherein said depression has a depression width of 3 mm to 8 mm.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 further including providing a transfer cylinder depression on the transfer cylinder and applying said printing blanket to said transfer cylinder and aligning said printing blanket depression and said transfer cylinder depression.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85 further including providing said transfer cylinder depression by cutting a barrel of the transfer cylinder.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85 further including providing an underlayer on the transfer cylinder and forming said transfer cylinder depression in said underlayer.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 further including arranging two of said printing blankets in an axial direction of the transfer cylinder.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88 further including arranging said depressions in said two axially arranged printing blankets.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75 further including providing a plate cylinder cooperating with the transfer cylinder and providing a transfer cylinder circumference as a whole number multiple of a circumference of said plate cylinder.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90 further including providing a printing plate on said circumference of said plate cylinder.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 91 further including providing four of said printing plates in an axial direction of said plate cylinder.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 90 further including providing a dampening system and assigning said dampening system to said plate cylinder.

94. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a printing blanket, adapted to be applied to a transfer cylinder in a printing press, including:

providing a dimensionally-stable support plate;

providing a coating on said support plate, said coating and said support plate constituting a printing blanket unit; and

providing a depression in said support plate before applying said printing blanket unit to the transfer cylinder.

95. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 94 further including providing a die and using said die for deforming said support plate.

96. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 94 further including providing an upper die and a lower die and deforming said support plate using said upper die and said lower die.

97. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 94 further including deforming said coating.

98. (Currently Amended) A printing group of a printing press not having a dampening unit, said printing group comprising:

a plate cylinder;

at least first and second waterless planographic printing plates arranged in a circumferential direction of said plate cylinder;

a transfer cylinder cooperating with said plate cylinder;

a printing blanket on a circumferential surface of said transfer cylinder;

a printing blanket end receiving opening on said circumferential surface of said transfer cylinder, said opening being located opposite a first set of ends of said first and second printing plates;

a depression in said printing blanket, said depression being located opposite a second set of ends of said first and second printing plates; and

a ~~metaldimensionally stable~~ support plate supporting said printing blanket.

99. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 98 wherein two of said printing blankets are arranged side-by-side in an axial direction of said transfer cylinder.

100. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 98 wherein said depression extends in an axial direction of said transfer cylinder.

101. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 98 further including a coating on said support plate of said printing blanket, said coating constituting a shell face of said transfer cylinder.

102. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 98 further including a multi-layer coating on each said printing plate, said coating including a lower layer and an upper layer.

103. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 102 wherein said lower layer is an ink-absorbing material and said upper layer is an ink-repelling material.

104. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 103 wherein said ink-repelling material includes silicon.

105. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 103 wherein said upper layer is discontinuous.

106. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 102 wherein said upper layer overlies said lower layer in areas of a print image not to be printed.

107. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 98 further including spaced first and second ends of said printing blanket, said depression being formed by a distance between said spaced first and second printing blanket ends.

108. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 107 wherein said depression is parallel to a longitudinal axis of said transfer cylinder.

109. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 98 wherein said depression is a groove formed in said printing blanket.

110. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 98 further including a coating of said printing blanket and wherein said depression is a groove formed in said coating.

111. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 110 wherein a depth of said groove is between 5% and 10% of a thickness of said coating.

112. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 101 wherein said coating includes first and second coating ends and wherein said depression in a groove centered between said first and second coating ends.

113. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 98 wherein said depression has a depression width and said printing blanket has a printing blanket length, both in a circumferential diameter of said transfer cylinder, said depression width being 0.1% to 1.0% of said printing blanket length.

114. (Currently Amended) The printing group of claim 98 wherein said metal-dimensionally stable support plate is sheet metal.

115. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 114 wherein said metal support plate is steel.

116. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 101 wherein said coating is rubber.

117. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 116 wherein said rubber coating is a multi-layer rubber material.

118. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 101 wherein said coating has a ground surface.

119. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 98 further including an underlayer between said printing blanket and said circumferential surface of said transfer cylinder, said underlayer including an underlayer depression.

120. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 98 further including a plurality of said printing blankets arranged axially side by side on said transfer cylinder.

121. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 98 wherein each said waterless planographic printing plate extends axially the length of said plate cylinder.

122. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 98 wherein a plurality of said waterless planographic printing plates are arranged axially side by side on said plate cylinder.

123. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 98 wherein a size of each said waterless planographic printing plate corresponds to a newspaper page.

124. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 98 further including temperature control means for at least one of said plate cylinder and said transfer cylinder.

125. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 124 wherein said temperature control means is an interior temperature control means.

126. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 125 wherein said interior temperature control means includes heat carrier circulating conduits.

127. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 126 wherein said heat carrier circulating conduits are adapted to receive a fluid.

128. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 124 wherein said temperature control means senses a circumferential speed of said at least one of said plate cylinder and said transfer cylinder.

129. (Previously Presented) The printing group of claim 122 wherein said plate cylinder includes plate end receiving openings aligned in an axial direction of said plate cylinder.

130. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket of claim 69 wherein said metal support plate is steel.

131. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket of claim 75 wherein said dimensionally stable support plate is metal.

132. (Previously Presented) The printing blanket of claim 94 wherein said dimensionally stable support plate is metal.